



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board Cochise Regional Partnership Council

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Cochise Regional Partnership Council was held on September 15, 2009 at approximately 3:00 p.m. at the Sierra Vista Public Library, 2600 East Tacoma Street, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635.

Members Present:

Jane Strain, Dave Howe, Del Cabarga, Ginger Ryan, Renae Humburg, Vaira Harik, Melodi Polach, Evelyn Whitmer, and Ana Bae-Limb

Members Absent:

Mary Sue Houser and Nancy-Jean Welker

Others Present:

Melissa Avant, Janette Guerra, Priscilla Whitlock-Coates, Cindi Alva, Holly Bennett-Howard, Anne Bennett, Melissa Mitchell, Amy Allen, Nell Worden, Carolyn Owens, Robin Falconer, Cindy Hansen, Sonia Millet, Marilyn Godfrey, Judith Schmitt, Leanne Duncan, Ron Viafore, and Nancy Ledesma.

Chair Strain welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Member Cabarga led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of the August 27, 2009 Meeting

A motion was made by Chair Strain to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2009 meeting. Seeing no objections, the minutes will be posted as published.

Call to the Public

There was no response to Call to the Public.

Discussion and Possible Action of Needs and Assets (2nd read)

Regional Coordinator Melissa Avant continued discussions with the Regional Council from the previous month's council meeting and referred the Regional Council to the Summary of Data to be collected for Basic Needs and Assets handout. The handout indicated what the Regional Council would be receiving from the basic report. Ms. Avant referred the Regional Council to the Questions to consider handout that the Regional Council needs to consider when making the decision whether to pay for additional data collection. Ms. Avant then referred the Regional Council to the Evaluation Methodologies and Additional RPC Funded Tasks handouts. Ms. Avant directed the Regional Council to discuss and decide 1) if they want to use the \$10,000 and 2) how it will be used for additional data collection. Ms. Avant

indicated that the state will be paying for the basic data collection (165 hours). The Regional Council will be choosing the vendor who will complete the Needs and Assets Report, via a state conducted bid process.

Member Harik moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council allocate \$10,000 to the FY2010 Needs and Assets Report to add supplemental data that is region specific, including data on low birth weight babies, AHCCCS births, teen mothers, un-wed mothers, focus groups and surveys. Member Bae-Limb seconded the motion. Motion defeated 1:8

The Regional Council expressed concerns with the actual hours it will take the consultant to gather data. The Regional Council further discussed their options.

Member Humburg made an alternative motion that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council carry-forward \$10,000 for the FY2010 period. Member Cabarga seconded the motion. Motion carried 8:1.

Discussion and Possible Action of Needs and Assets Vendor Process Selection

Chair Strain reminded the Regional Council of conflict of interest and asked any members that are considering applying for the vendor selection process to recuse themselves from the discussion. Member Whitmer, Member Harik and Member Polach each declared conflict of interest and recused themselves.

Member Humburg made a motion to direct the regional staff to make the recommendation for the rationale of the approved bidders for the Needs and Assets Vendor selection. Seconded by Vice Chair Howe. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action of Evaluation Dollars

Member Ryan moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council carry-forward \$50,000 in the FY2010 evaluation dollars to the evaluation category of FY2011. Member Cabarga seconded the motion.

Regional Coordinator Melissa Avant provided background information for the \$50,000 evaluation allocation. Due to the infancy of many of the strategies, programmatic evaluation of these programs is not feasible at this time. Years of data will need to be compiled first. However, the state evaluation unit has given the Regional Councils an opportunity to buy into some of the studies that they are doing. Ms. Avant briefly reviewed some of the studies, including the St. Lukes Arizona Health Survey Study, and the Childcare Study.

Motion carried.

Adoption of Regional Council Attendance Policy

Chair Strain reminded the Regional Council of their previous discussions regarding this agenda item, and that the Attendance Policy was created at the state level.

Member Humburg moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council ratify the current Governance Policy to include the Attendance Policy. Member Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Grantee Presentations

- Cindy Hansen with Arizona Children's Association gave a presentation which included the history of the organization. Judith Schmitt, with First Things First Bright Start updated the Regional Council on the program (parenting skills, home management, job preparation are all available). Bright Start is a client driven program. Ms. Schmitt discussed Brain Boxes and reviewed what comes in the box and what they provide in regards to child development. Sixty (60) families will be served over the course of the contract year, but currently there are seventeen (17) families in the program.
- Holly Bennett-Howard and Amy Allen with Child & Family Resources in the Willcox area gave a presentation which included the history of the organization. Building Bright Futures is the name of their First Things First funded child prevention program. Currently, six (6) families are enrolled and 30 are being assessed for enrollment. The home visitation process was explained and questions were answered.
- Robin Falconer with the Cochise County Health Department gave a status update on the Home Visitation Grant and Healthy Child Grant that were awarded by the Regional Council. Currently, forty-nine (49) families are being served. The target for home visitation is 150 families. The newest addition is a fatherhood program for inmates who will soon be released. The target number for this program is 100 fathers, but 14 fathers have expressed interest so far. Ms. Falconer briefly reviewed each of the remaining programs.
- Ron Viafore, the *Quality First!* Coach with Easter Seals Blake Foundation gave a presentation and update to the Regional Council. Currently, twenty (20) centers are being served. Ten (10) of those are state funded and ten (10) are funded with regional dollars. The *Quality First!* assessment and process was explained.
- Regional Coordinator Melissa Avant provided a report on behalf of the Benson Area Food Bank. Seventy-two (72) families have been served, and 98 boxes have been awarded. The contents of the boxes include formula, diapers, wipes, cereal, fruit, meat, cheese and milk. The program has been well received within the community.
- Nell Worden with the Willcox Community Food Bank reported that 62 families have been served, and 110 boxes have been awarded as of September 15th. The contents of the boxes include baby food, diapers, formula, baby shampoo and lotion. The food bank goes to the preschools once a month to distribute the boxes.
- Regional Coordinator Melissa Avant provided a report on behalf of the Southeast Arizona Food Bank. Seven (7) children and 23 families have been served. Five (5) boxes have been awarded. The contents of the boxes include juice, formula, cereal, fruit, vegetables, meat, diapers, powdered milk, rice, and peanut butter. Appropriate boxes are given to the appropriate age groups.
- Carolyn Owens with the Community Food Bank reported that food distribution began in August and have distributed 46 boxes. There have been a total of 160 children served (all ages). Boxes are distributed once per month. The program has been well received within the community.

The Regional Council asked all of the food banks for clarification regarding the sustainability of families and efforts to get them off of food assistance. The food banks indicated that the need is there due to the current state of the economy, children are going hungry, and the food boxes are making a difference.

Summary of Workgroup FY2011 Funding Plan

The workgroup will meet on Monday, October 12th at 9:00 a.m. A potluck will take place.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chair Strain adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Dated this 29 day of October, 2009

Submitted By: Edith Lee
Administrative Assistant

Approved By: Jane Strain
Chair, Jane Strain